**Select an Assignment: Scenic Photo**



Title: Old Building  
  
Tags: scenic, old building, overgrown, abandoned  
  
This is a photo of an old, abandoned building close to my school. I have passed this building so many times in the last five years, so I decided to photograph it. Obviously, this is a building that has been in Coweta County for many years and probably belongs to a prominent local family. I decided to use this scenic picture so that I could use it when I discuss writing techniques with my 8th grade language arts classes at the beginning of the second nine weeks. I teach the students to view a photo and to write a truism for that photo. Every student usually has a very unique perspective on the photos, and they all usually have a very different truism for each picture. I would give them my example as well. My truism is "Don't dwell on the past." From the truism, I have them think about a time in their life that correlates to their truism, and this becomes the beginning of a writing piece. I use this technique to prove that everyone has something to write about.

**Peer Critique**

<http://thesnapshots.wikispaces.com/Kevin-P3>

Kevin, I like that you were brave to include a not so good photo of depth of field here for this assignment. I think that many of us can relate to the frustration of our cameras focusing on the "wrong" thing in our photos. I think this would be an excellent way to introduce this concept in a photography class. What suggestions would you give students on how to correct the depth of field issue? I have had issues with this concept with my own camera. I would suggest that you also show the corrected or "right" depth of field in conjunction with the "wrong" one.

**Other Comments**

Donna, I really love this picture. The light of the sun coming in from the right side gives just the right amount of light for this shot. I really like how the ivy intertwines itself around the trunks of the trees. Using an unusual angle can give a great effect to a picture and I think you did a great job with this angle. One suggestion I have is to maybe try getting a little closer to the trees to see if it has a different effect on the photo. Another suggestion is to see if you can capture this angle through the ivy and maybe use it as a frame to the picture. If it is poison ivy, then please don't harm yourself. :O)

Jacki, the cropped picture does focus more on Hayden. I really like how you left room for the ball to soar through the air after he hits it. By cropping the photo, you now adhere to the rule of thirds more. My eye is immediately drawn to Hayden and then the ball and bat. I think your shutter speed was excellent! The lighting for this shot is nice as well. This reminds me of my brother playing baseball when we were kids. My son does not have an affinity for sports; I think he will be a musician. One suggestion I have is maybe trying to capture this picture from the front where we see Hayden’s face. I know this may be tricky, but it could make for a great picture. Overall, you did a great job of capturing this sports moment.

Michael, I have to say that I like your color photo better than the black and white. You described the vines as withered and dead on the post, but I cannot see the posts or vines. I can tell that you wanted to capture the overgrown grass encroaching the field, but I wish I could actually see the dead vines. I can understand that you want to use this as a writing activity; I use many photographs as writing prompts in my classroom as well. I would suggest that maybe you try this photo from a different angle to see if you can capture a vine or two. I can hear the 8th graders asking, "How am I supposed to write about that?" Besides that, this is a nice shot.